

BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, September 17, 2012

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell and Diana Campbell

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Marjorie McBride, John Saviano (6:42), Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade and Pauline Silva

Bill O'Dell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

FY12 Budget Update

Pauline reported that the audit field work has begun with the year-end budget right where it was predicted to be. The subcommittee and administration have agreed in concept that the savings in reserve will be spread over three fiscal years with the balance going to the Capital Projects Fund. By the next Budget meeting, GASB will allocate into those categories and Pauline will have exact figures which will be within \$50,000 of what we expected. Pauline will check the GASB 54 Policy to be sure it is in alignment with our plan for assigning of

funds. There will be an additional meeting to discuss these allocations in preparation to report out to full committee.

Marj requested discussion on the above update. She wants to be sure that the monies being allotted over the next three years will not cause the district to do without now, and would like the subcommittee to consider rolling over into specific accounts. Pauline stated these could go back into the Operating Fund. Melinda stressed the importance of the benefit to the children being foremost when considering allocation of funds and all present wholeheartedly agreed.

John voiced a concern about the perception to those in the community of how we allocate funds and is the information public enough to dissuade any negative perceptions. With agendas and minutes that are posted, it was felt that the information is available to anyone who has an interest. Melinda believes there should not be any negative response to the proposed allocation of funds as it shows sound fiscal responsibility as we prepare eight to ten years out in preparation for any reduction in state aid that could happen in the future. By planning forward, in the long term, we will be asking for less. Melinda reiterated that the children come first in any budget decisions, and Pauline added that anything related to curriculum is always 100% funded.

FY13 Budget Update

Pauline reported that the General Fund Budget is in, balanced and looks very good. She handed out September's Monthly Report by Function and those present looked it over. Pauline reminded that the negative numbers are only a reflection of the fact that no other budgets are in yet. CRP has been approved though, and budgets will be set-up this week.

Diana asked if the subcommittee could go through the stipend list this year as the last time it was discussed was two years ago. Since then, there have been no changes to the document, but all agreed it would be good to review at the next meeting. Bill stated it will be part of the school committee packet for the next Budget Focus Meeting.

Discussion of Budget Categories

Pauline distributed to the subcommittee the Four Part Core Continuum of Priority Programs and Service Delivery Areas as we look ahead to FY14. She went through line by line including the following categories: mandatory, essential, traditional and other. As part of the category of traditional, the subject of bus transportation to St. Lukes in Barrington was given as an example which sparked a conversation with the concern that we are using one bus at the cost of \$55,000 a year to bus out to Barrington. All agreed to revisit this subject as an action item for our next meeting as we move ahead to set up the FY14 budget. Another concern was the category of "other" giving the perception of "not as important". Pauline stated that these were not in any order of priority and agreed that this category's name

could be changed to better showcase those items included within it. It was also felt that “School Committee Goals” should fall under “Essentials”. John suggested it would be good to include on the monthly line item budget a category that would cross-reference the item to this list. Pauline responded to all these suggestions that this document is just the beginning and she would like to see it expanded to include these suggestions and any additional bullet items as we move ahead in our discussions for future meetings.

Next Meetings

Discussion ensued about future agenda items for the next budget meetings with the following items being requested: Budget/Facilities Focus to include “2012 Bus Inspection Reports”, “First Student Compliance with School Committee Policy for distance between bus stops”, “Goose Droppings Issue”, and for Budget Focus to include “Review of Stipend List”, “Growing Four-Part Core Program Continuum”, “Action: Transfer of funds”.

Adjournment

MOTION: Diana Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM. Bill O’Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/kd